

**GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM**

Friday, January 5, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

Earlier this week, I stood before the citizens of Michigan and took the oath of office for the second and final time.

In my inaugural address, I pledged my commitment, my energy and my heart to transforming this state and to providing opportunity to *all* who live here.

Michigan is a truly amazing state.

Our abundant natural resources, our outstanding citizens, our unmatched work ethic, our first class universities, our incredible quality of life give us a foundation from which to build Michigan anew. To build a 21<sup>st</sup> century Michigan with a thriving economy and thriving communities. To build the Next Michigan.

The Next Michigan will require hard work from all of us. I must, and I will, continue to work tirelessly to implement my economic plan. Our newly-elected Legislature must show courage as they develop economic and investment strategies in the face of a budget crisis and a need to transform. And you, our citizens, must support the need for change, must seize the opportunity to retrain and to urge our children to go to college or get training themselves.

I cannot do this alone. The transformation in Michigan will require us all to contribute to building our state anew.

I have claimed the Next Michigan. I hope you will join me in claiming it too. In believing in all that Michigan will be ...

A place where opportunity to grow and to live a good life exists for all of our citizens.

Where every child goes to college and every displaced worker has the opportunity to open their own business or be retrained for a new future.

The Next Michigan where every citizen has access to affordable health care, and our love of our land and our water produces clean and green technology.

Where we grow companies that specialize in alternative energy.

The Next Michigan, whose cities are vibrant, alive with people and culture and energy and jobs.

And where compassion drives our citizens to have a responsibility to one another.

That is the Michigan that will be.

We know that our challenges have been decades in the making. And we know that full transformation doesn't happen overnight. But that is precisely why we will act with urgency and intelligence and with a boldness equal to the challenge that we face. Because it will *take* time, we cannot *waste* time.

Given our ongoing fiscal crisis, none of this will be easy.

But this is our moment.

And in this moment, we will transform our state together. Ten million citizens, twenty million hands, each building and shaping the Next Michigan.

We know the Michigan that is – join in me in believing and making the next Michigan – the Michigan that will be.

Thank you for listening.